

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, IN, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN LIBRARY IN BANGALORE

REF: USIA 18553, STATE 189749

1. MY LETTER TO KEWAL SINGH WILL MERELY SUGGEST THAT THIS SEEMS A GOOD TIME TO OPEN AN ADDITIONAL AMERICAN LIBRARY IN INDIA IN A NON-CONSULAR CITY AND THAT WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE MODALITIES FOR DOING SO. FURTHER, THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO ARRIVE AT AN "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE" PROMPTLY ENOUGH TO PERMIT EARLY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF IT AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

2. AL HEMSONG AND ALL OF US FEEL THAT IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF "GIVE" IN THE INDIAN POSITION ON LIBRARIES AND CULTURAL CENTERS IN NON-CONSULAR CITIES IS REMOTE. EVEN OUR "FRIENDS" IN THE GOI AND PARLIAMENT WOULD NOT BE WITH US. THEY SUPPORT HAVING SUCH INSTALLATIONS OPERATE UNDE THE AUSPICES OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS BECAUSE THEY SEE THE ICCR MORE AS AN ARRANGEMENT INHIBITING SOVIET ACTIVITIES, THAN A CURB ON WESTERN PRESENCE. VIZ, THEY WOULD SAY, LOOK AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL LIBRARIES' EASY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ICCR, UNDER WHOSE AUSPICES THEY HAVE NOW OPERATED FOR NEARLY A YEAR.

3. BUT WE WILL GIVE IT A TRY.

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4. AS TO FINANCES, USIS' PROBLEM, AS HEMSING EXPLAINS IT TO ME,

IS LESS ONE OF LACK OF FUNDS PER SE, AS IT IS THE UNAVAILABILITY
OF DOLLARS TO BUY BOOKS IN AMERICA. MAYBE THERE COULD BE A
TRADE-OFF BETWEEN RUPEES AND DOLLARS IN THE USIS INDIA BUDGET
NOW OR NEXT YEAR. IN ANY CASE, INDIANS ARE ACCUSTOMED TO "AGREE-
MENTS IN PRINCIPLE" WHICH TAKE A LONG TIME TO BECOME CONCRETE.
AND ITS THAT KIND OF AGREEMENT WE SEEK TO ARRIVE AT BY OCTOBER.
MOYNIHAN

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